SECOND'S MATTERS

May 20, 2020

Second Church of Fremont

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Pastor's Desk

View Pastor Doug's Tank Talk May 19

We seek to offer regular connections to the church each week with a prayer list on Monday, Tank Talk on Tuesday, Second's Matters on Wednesday, Faith Formation Check-in every other Thursday, bulletin on Friday, and a recorded worship service on Sunday. Saturday you are on your own!

Additionally, we have been working at finishing our new website which we expect to roll out next week, and Val has been doing some special cleaning projects including giving attention to our sanctuary pews. Look at the attached picture and see if you can notice which pews have been the object of her efforts. Also, Mary Folkema (Children's Ministry Coordinator), Ann Pell (Kids Own Director) and I have all offered to the Administrative Committee that we take varying pay reductions. The Administrative Committee accepted our various offers. For me this includes a one-week furlough (next week, but I will still preach for May 31).

Cathy and I continue to pray repeatedly through the directory (one page a day) even as we yearn for the time that we can catch up with you in person and for the day when we can again worship together.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

It has been our routine on Tuesday to record the music pieces for Sunday worship. So each Tuesday our sanctuary is filled with the sound of praise music. To our general disappointment, the sanctuary is not filled with the sounds of the saints singing with us. In some ways, it feels like we have lost a sense of the vibrancy of our fellowship. Additionally, when we hear the news that things likely won't be that way again for a while it can be heartbreaking. I am sure there are more empty sanctuary Tuesdays ahead of me.

This week as the praise team sang "Across the Lands" I was struck by the following lyrics. "All creation holds together / By the power of Your voice / Let the skies declare Your glory; / Let the land and seas rejoice!" I was reminded of just how great our God is. Our God is worshiped when his people sing his praises at home and in church sanctuaries. God is made known through the preaching of his word and through the way we live our lives. We may not be able to be together as we worship God, but together we can be a witness to his goodness. I am thankful to be in this strange time with you.

Sunday Worship, May 24. (Online at 9:30 am)

Tomorrow, Thursday, May 21, is the Christian Church's observance of the Ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9-11). This Sunday our worship theme will celebrate this great event and Pastor Doug's message will be titled "Experiencing the Ascension from the Ground."

Our Church Family

Harold Kolk continues receiving hospice care in his and Win's living quarters at Waterford Place in Jenison.

Roger Folkema is hospitalized in Grand Rapids for a few weeks of treatment for leukemia.

Bev Kolk begins her daily out-patient regimen of radiation this Thursday in Muskegon.

Congregational News

The church office is not open during our state's stay at home order.

Offerings

Our deacons welcome our continued support for our congregation's financial obligations with our offerings. Donations can be mailed to the church at 600 Apache Drive. Additionally, donations can be submitted online via bank account, credit, or debit card at this link: Second CRC - Online Giving or download the "GivePlus" app if you wish to give to funds other than the General Fund.

Special envelope offerings are:

May 17 - TrueNorth Community Services
May 24 - World Renew
May 31 – Young Life Campership

Christian Education Fund

Given the uncertainty of our Christian Education Fund for the school year next year, families that are currently using the fund to pay for their children's education are encouraged to apply for FACTS through Fremont Christian School or Western Michigan Christian if they would like financial assistance. The deadline to apply for FACTS is June 1. If the fund is covered in full for the current school year, the plan will be to continue the fund for another year.

Live Streaming

Members of the congregation received a letter from our Administrative Team recently informing the church that, when the time comes, our plan for resuming Sunday worship in our sanctuary will include live streaming our services. This will be an important provision during and after that time of transition. Our audio-visual fund has $2,000 towards the start-up cost of $6,000. If you are pleased to make a special gift towards this plan you may do so until May 31 (indicate it is for ("Live streaming equipment"). So far $2,900.00 has been donated for this.

Parents of 8th-grade students, High School Seniors, or College Seniors

You should have received an email from Zach with a few questions so he can type up a graduation booklet bio for your student. It is our plan and hope, that when we are able to meet in person and have students at church to celebrate in a worship service and release the booklet.

Spotify List

If you would like to listen to our Spotify account for Second CRC worship songs click here.

Stock the Pantry

For the month of May the requested items are spaghetti sauce, pasta, and/or rice. With Second Church being closed, and the need at this time especially great, donations can be dropped off at TrueNorth which is considered an essential service and remains open.

Community

Community Drive-in Worship Service, May 24, 10 a.m.

The Fremont community is welcomed to join a Community Drive-in Worship Service at 10 a.m. in the Gerber West parking lot on Hemlock Street, east of Stone Road. The offering will be for the Newaygo County Compassion Home. This service is being sponsored by First Reformed Church, Church of the Living Christ, and First Christian Reformed Church.

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